

TEXT OF TELEGRAM 79STATE 313507

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ORIGIN NEA-07

INFO OCT-00 EUR-12 EA-12 ADS-00 INR-10 SMS-01 SIG-03
PCH-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 PA-02 SP-02 INRE-00
HA-05 SS-15 SSO-00 NSCE-00 RP-10 SR-04 PM-06
ICAE-00 /091 R

...DRAFTED BY NEA/PAB:RDLORTON
...APPROVED BY NEA/PAB:RAPECK
...R/SOV:RPERITO (INFO)
...NEA/P:JTWHELOCK
...INR/PNA/DOA:EVANHOLLEN (INFO)
...S/MMS:CKAMMAN (INFO)

-----082046 051818Z /50

...O 051735Z DEC 79
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY KABUL IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BEIJING
USMISSION USNATO
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD POUCH

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E.O. 12065: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, MILI, PINS, AF, UR, SREF, PK

SUBJECT: EXCERPTS FROM NOON BRIEFING: AFGHANISTAN

FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM DECEMBER 4 NOON BRIEFING
DEALING WITH AFGHANISTAN. HODDING CARTER III WAS THE
SPOKESMAN.

2. Q: THE HOSTAGE CRISIS HAS DIVERTED ATTENTION FROM THE
SOVIET OFFENSIVE IN AFGHANISTAN. CAN YOU TELL US IF THE
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SOVIET MILITARY ACTION IN AFGHANISTAN HAS INCREASED OVER
THE PAST MONTH? IT HAS BEEN REPORTED THAT --

A: WE BELIEVE THAT SOVIET ADVISORS HAVE INCREASED THEIR
ROLE IN SUPPORT OF THE AFGHAN MILITARY, ESPECIALLY IN THE
AREA OF COMMAND AND CONTROL FUNCTIONS.

THERE HAVE BEEN RECENT AFGHAN GOVERNMENT OFFENSIVES AGAINST
THE INSURGENTS, WHICH INDICATE AN EXTENSIVE SOVIET ROLE IN

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THEIR PLANNING AND EXECUTION. WE ARE NOT ABLE TO CONFIRM THAT SOVIET MILITARY PERSONNEL HAVE TAKEN A DIRECT COMBAT ROLE IN OPERATIONS AGAINST THE INSURGENTS. THAT MEANS ACTUALLY FIRING THE GUNS, RIDING THE TANKS, OR WHATEVER IT MAY BE.

WHILE WE CANNOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT SOVIET PILOTS MAY BE FLYING SOME COMBAT MISSIONS FOR THE AFGHAN AIR FORCE, WE ARE UNABLE TO CONFIRM NUMEROUS REPORTS TO THAT EFFECT.

WE BELIEVE THERE ARE NOW SOME 3,500 TO 4,000 SOVIET MILITARY PERSONNEL IN AFGHANISTAN. WE CONTINUE TO RECEIVE REPORTS OF LARGER NUMBERS.

WE CONTINUE TO INVESTIGATE THEM, BUT WE WILL HAVE TO STRESS THAT OUR INFORMATION IS FRAGMENTARY AT BEST AND IT

SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS AN INFORMED ESTIMATE.

IN ADDITION, THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY 1,500 SOVIET CIVILIAN ADVISORS IN AFGHANISTAN.

AND THAT'S REALLY ABOUT IT.

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Q: HAVE YOU TAKEN THIS UP LATELY WITH THE SOVIETS? AND DOES THE UNITED STATES HAVE ANY CONCERN HERE THAT IT WOULD CARE TO EXPRESS?

A: I WOULD REPEAT THE CONCERN WHICH WE HAVE EXPRESSED ABOUT OUTSIDE INTERVENTION IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF AFGHANISTAN. WE WOULD NOT BE LAYING THIS OUT IF WE DID NOT HAVE A CONCERN ABOUT IT.

Q: HAVE YOU TALKED TO THE RUSSIANS ABOUT IT LATELY?

A: I DON'T KNOW.

Q: DOES THIS AMOUNT TO "OUTSIDE INTERVENTION"?

A: I AM --

Q: ARE YOU CONCERNED ABOUT THE PROSPECT, OR THE FACT OF IT?

A: I AM LAYING OUT A SITUATION ABOUT WHICH I CAN TELL YOU WE EXPRESS CONCERN.

Q: HODDING, TWO QUESTIONS: ONE, HOW RECENTLY HAVE THESE 3,500 TO 4,000 SOVIET MILITARY PERSONNEL BEEN INTRODUCED?

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A: I DON'T KNOW. IT HAS BEEN OVER SOME PERIOD OF TIME.
NOT RECENT.

Q: AND SECONDLY, DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION THAT THE--
I BELIEVE HE IS THE DEPUTY SOVIET DEFENSE MINISTER, A
GENERAL BY THE NAME OF PAVLOVSKY?

A: I HAVE SEEN THAT REPORT. I HAVE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO
CONFIRM IT. I MEAN, WE HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO CONFIRM
THAT PRESENCE AS A FACT BUT WE HAVE SEEN THE REPORT.

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..THE LAST TIME WE LOOKED, I DIDN'T HAVE IT, AND IT'S BEEN A
..PERSISTENT REPORT.

..BUT I WILL TAKE THE QUESTION. I THINK IT'S MUCH SAFER IF
..I TAKE THE QUESTION.

..HAS THE STATE DEPARTMENT PRONOUNCED ITSELF LATELY ON THE
..NEW REPORTS ABOUT WHAT COMES UNDER THE GENERAL HEADING OF
..HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN AFGHANISTAN? EXECUTIONS?
..IMPRISONS OF FORMER LEADING GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND SO
..FORTH?

..THERE WAS, APPARENTLY, A READING IN MID-NOVEMBER BY A
..REGIME SPOKESMAN, APPARENTLY CONDUCTED IN KABUL, IN
..WHICH THE NAMES OF BETWEEN 10,000 AND 15,000 POLITICAL
..PRISONERS WERE READ OFF, AND OVER HALF OF WHOM, OR AT
..LEAST HALF OF WHOM, WERE REPORTED TO BE DEAD IN THAT
..READING.

..BEYOND THAT, I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING. CLEARLY, THIS IS
..A MATTER OF SERIOUS CONCERN TO US.

Q: BUT HAVE YOU PRONOUNCED YOURSELF ON IT? YOU HAVE
FREQUENTLY COMPLAINED OF FOREIGN GOVERNMENTS ABOUT THEIR
HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS AND SO ON?

A: OH, DO YOU MEAN "HAVE WE TALKED TO THEM?"

Q: YES, HAVE WE TALKED TO THEM....

A: WE HAVE TALKED TO THEM.

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Q: YES, YOU HAVE TALKED TO THEM AND WHERE DOES THIS GET YOU?

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A: I HAVE DESCRIBED THE SITUATION TO YOU.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY NEW IDEA OF HOW MANY RUSSIANS HAVE BEEN KILLED OR --

A: NO.

Q: AND HURT AND --

A: NO.

Q: ALSO, DO YOU HAVE ANY BETTER IDEA NOW JUST WHO IS IN CONTROL OF WHAT PARTS OF THE COUNTRY?

A: I DON'T HAVE A STATUS REPORT ON THAT. I THINK, AGAIN, I HAVE TO STRESS THE FRAGMENTARY NATURE OF OUR INFORMATION-- THE SIFTING PROCESS STILL LEAVES US WITH A MOSAIC WHICH IS NOT ALL THAT SHARP IN ITS DEFINITION.

Q: HODDING, DO YOU HAVE ANY ESTIMATE OF THE NUMBER OF SOVIET WEAPONS OR COMBAT AIRCRAFT THAT MIGHT CONCEIVABLY BE FLOWN BY RUSSIANS, IN THESE RAIDS THAT YOU SAID YOU CAN'T CONFIRM?

A: I WILL SEE WHAT I CAN GET ON THAT.

Q: HODDING, THERE HAVE ALSO BEEN REPORTS OF MASSIVE EVACUATIONS OR DEPARTURE OF TENS OF THOUSANDS. I HAVE SEEN ESTIMATES IN THE HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF REFUGEES GOING INTO PAKISTAN. DO YOU HAVE ANY NUMBERS ON THAT? DO YOU HAVE ANY SENSE OF THE SCOPE OF THAT? WHAT DOES ONE HEAR FROM THESE PEOPLE WHEN THEY COME OUT?

A: I WILL TAKE THAT. I THINK I CAN GET IT FOR YOU VERY UNCLASSIFIED UNCLASSIFIED

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FAST. I HAVE SEEN THEM, BUT I CAN'T REMEMBER.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY MORE DETAILS ON THIS READING YOU MENTIONED?

A: THAT'S ABOUT IT. WE UNDERSTAND IT WAS SOME KIND OF A READING OUT OF THE LISTS. NOW AGAIN, THAT GETS VERY SKETCHY FOR ME SO I THINK THAT IS THE BEST I CAN DO.

Q: SOMEBODY STOOD UP AT A PUBLIC FORUM AND READ 10,000 TO 15,000 NAMES AND SAID WHICH WERE DEAD AND WHICH WERE POLITICAL PRISONERS?

A: THEY MAY HAVE POSTED SOME OF THEM.

Q: SPEAKING OF OUTSIDE INTERVENTION, DOES THE STATE

DEPARTMENT HAVE ANY NOTION IF ANY OUTSIDERS ARE INTERVENING ON BEHALF OF THE ANTI-GOVERNMENT FORCES IN AFGHANISTAN? AREN'T THEY GETTING THEIR ARMS FROM FOLKS OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY?

A: I DON'T HAVE MUCH ON THAT.

Q: DON'T HAVE MUCH?

A: I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON IT.

Q: DO WE OBJECT TO IT, THOUGH, IF THEY --

A: WE OBJECT TO OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE.

Q: -- IF THEY ARE OUR FRIENDS?

A: WE OBJECT TO OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE IN THE AFFAIRS OF

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AFGHANISTAN.

Q: WHAT ABOUT THE REPORTS THAT THE SOVIETS ARE USING POISON GAS AND NAPALM AGAINST MOSLEM GUERILLAS? CAN YOU VERIFY THAT?

A: I DON'T HAVE ANYTHING ON IT.

Q: LET ME ASK YOU A HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION: IF THEY TOOK OVER THE GOVERNMENT, WOULD WE FEEL SECURE REOPENING A FULL EMBASSY THERE?

A: LET ME ASK YOU A HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION: IF I ANSWERED, THAT, WOULD IT SERVE ANY PURPOSE?

Q: YES, WE WOULD LIKE TO PRINT IT.

A: THEN YOUR HYPOTHETICAL ANSWER IS BETTER THAN MY HYPOTHETICAL ANSWER. I HAVE NO COMMENT ON IT.

3. FOLLOWING ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS TAKEN AT THE BRIEFING WERE SUBSEQUENTLY POSTED:

Q: IS GENERAL PAVLOVSKIY IN AFGHANISTAN?

A: -- WE UNDERSTAND THAT A HIGH-LEVEL SOVIET MILITARY DELEGATION WAS IN AFGHANISTAN FOR A PERIOD OF APPROXIMATELY TWO MONTHS FROM MID-AUGUST UNTIL MID-OCTOBER. WE ARE NOT IN A POSITION TO CONFIRM THE COMPOSITION OF THAT DELEGATION.

-- WE HAVE NO REPORTS THAT GENERAL PAVOLOVSKIY IS PRESENTLY IN AFGHANISTAN.

Q: HOW MANY SOVIET AIRCRAFT ARE THERE IN AFGHANISTAN?

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A: -- THE SOVIETS HAVE SUPPLIED MIG-17'S, MIG-21'S, MI-8
HELICOPTERS AND MI-24 COMBAT HELICOPTERS TO THE AFGHAN
AIR FORCE.

WE ARE NOT ABLE TO PROVIDE YOU WITH FIGURES ON THE
NUMBERS OF SUCH AIRCRAFT OR OTHERS WHICH ARE CURRENTLY
IN AFGHANISTAN.

Q: HOW MANY AFGHAN REFUGEES ARE THERE NOW IN PAKISTAN?

A: ACCORDING TO GOVERNMENT OF PAKISTAN FIGURES, THE

NUMBER OF AFGHAN REFUGEES IN PAKISTAN NOW EXCEEDS 310,000.
DANCE

NOTE BY OC/T: POUCHED TO ISLAMABAD.

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